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February 9, 2022

Chair Luke Clippinger
Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 245/SB 331: Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims - Alterations and Repeal of Sunset

POSITION: Information

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office) is providing this letter of information for House Bill 245: Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims - Alterations and Repeal of Sunset.

This bill repeals the termination date of the Pilot Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims, repeals the limit on the total annual amount physicians, qualified health care providers, and hospitals are entitled to be paid for providing certain treatment or follow-up care from the Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit, and alters the requirement that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services report to the Governor and General Assembly on the operation and results of the program. Under this legislation, the Office would be required on or before December 1, 2022 and every 2 years thereafter, to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the operations and results of the program during the immediately preceding 2-year period.

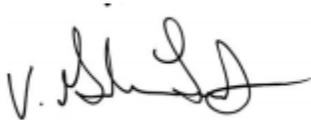
Previously, the Office was responsible for overseeing the Pilot Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims and had to report on the number of patients that qualified to receive postexposure prophylaxis under the pilot program, the number of patients that chose to receive postexposure prophylaxis, the total amount reimbursed to providers for the postexposure prophylaxis, and the cost of the postexposure prophylaxis treatment and follow-up care provided under the pilot program. Pursuant to the Pilot Program's charge, the Office and core stakeholders created a statewide protocol to provide guidance on the implementation and operation of the Pilot Program, as well as instruction to ensure victims of sexual assault are served in the most efficient and effective manner. In the Office's report on the implementation of this program, the Office reported that from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 (the most recent reporting period), 852 patients were qualified to receive nPEP, 172 patients chose to

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receive nPEP, 728 patients had initial care, 125 patients had follow up care, 1,025 claims were received, and the total dollar amount of claims received for nPEP patients' Medication, Initial and Follow-Up Care was \$542,004.08.

The Office continues to work with stakeholders to coordinate the efforts of the statewide protocol, roll out the reimbursement forms, and address identified training needs to ensure victims of sexual assault are served in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The Office also works with stakeholders to eliminate all remaining barriers to any victims of sexual assault having access to nPEP treatment, medication, or follow-up care, as part of the Office's goal to promote a Safer Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services